CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A connector module adapted to be integrated into an interior compartment of a mobile platform adjacent a seat of the mobile platform for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the mobile platform, the connector module comprising:

a housing;

a networking port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device; and

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive a DC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.

2. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the networking port comprises a Universal Serial Bus port.

3. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the networking port comprises a RJ-45 port.

4. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the power port comprises a 15 volt DC power connector.

5. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the power port comprises an ARINC 628 power connector.

6. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the power port and networking port are disposed in a common wall of the housing.

7. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the network is of the type selected from the group consisting of a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), internet, an intranet, and combination thereof.

8. A connector module disposed within a seat of an aircraft for providing a plurality of connectivity options for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the aircraft, the connector module comprising:

a housing;

a first networking port comprising a Universal Serial Bus disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device;

a second networking port comprising an RJ - 45 port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device; and

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive a DC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.

9. The connector module of claim 1 wherein the network is of the type selected from the group consisting of a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN) and an intranet.

10. A connector module disposed within a seat of an aircraft for providing for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the aircraft, the connector module comprising:

a housing;

a first networking port comprising a Universal Serial Bus disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device;

a second networking port comprising an RJ-45 port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device; and

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive a DC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.

11. A connector module adapted to be integrated into a mobile platform, adjacent to a seat of the mobile platform for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the mobile platform, the connector module comprising:

a housing;

at least one networking port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device; and

a mechanism slidably connecting said housing to a structure of the seat.

12. The connector module of claim 11 wherein said housing is positionable on said mechanism between one of a stowed position and a deployed position.

13. The connector module of claim 12 comprising:

said housing stowed position having said housing located entirely beneath a front beam of said seat and within a footprint envelope of said seat; and

said housing deployed position having said housing located partially beneath the front beam of said seat and extending at least partially beyond said footprint envelope of said seat.

14. The connector module of claim 12 wherein said mechanism comprises a sliding drawer frame.

15. The connector module of claim 14 comprising:

said sliding drawer frame having a first end fixedly connected to said seat structure and a second end for receiving said housing; and

said housing being slidably connected to said drawer frame second end.

16. The connector module of claim 12 wherein said housing is manually positionable between the stowed position and the deployed position.

17. The connector module of claim 12 wherein said housing is manually positionable from the stowed position to the deployed position and automatically retractable from the deployed position to the stowed position.

18. The connector module of claim 11 wherein a power port is disposed in the housing adapted to receive an AC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device.

19. The connector module of claim 11 wherein the at least one networking port comprises both a Universal Serial Bus port and a RJ-45 port.

20. A connector module connectably attached to a seat of an aircraft for providing for connecting a portable electronic device to a power source and a network located on-board the aircraft, the connector module comprising:

a housing slidably connected to a support structure of the seat;

at least one networking port disposed in the housing adapted to couple the portable electronic device to the network for providing network connectivity of the portable electronic device;

a power port disposed in the housing adapted to receive an AC power cable of the portable electronic device for providing power to the portable electronic device;

said housing having a manual pull feature for positioning the housing between one of a stowed position to a deployed position and a deployed position to a stowed position;

a face of said housing for mounting said networking port and said power port; and

said face of said housing being visible to a user of said seat when said housing is in the deployed position.